

Examples of New Lobby Bill's Effects

The following list of examples was prepared by the Senate Government Operations Committee to illustrate the effect of the new lobby registration bill introduced by Committee Chairman Abraham Ribicoff (D Conn.):

1. An individual citizen, concerned about the safety of children's toys, journeys to Washington and talks on her own behalf to staff assistants in the offices of 80 different congressmen or senators, including 20 from her own state. The citizen is *not* a lobbyist because she is simply expressing on her own behalf her personal concern about a matter.

2. An individual who is personally concerned about an environmental issue buys with his own funds an advertisement in the newspaper urging the public to write Congress in support of a particular environmental bill. The individual is *not* a lobbyist since he is using his own money to express his own personal view on an issue before Congress.

3. An individual lawyer is retained by a company to obtain an amendment to a tax bill pending in committee. In connection with the services provided his client, the lawyer drafts proposed wording, and discusses the wording with the staff of the appropriate committee. The lawyer is a lobbyist.

4. Employees of a national company call congressional committees on 20 occasions during a quarterly filing period in order to determine whether the committee has scheduled hearings on certain bills, and whether the committee has reported certain other bills out of committee. In addition, the company president testifies before the committee on a particular bill. The company engages in no other communications with Congress. The company is *not* a lobbyist since the bill excludes from its coverage the specific types of communications in which the company engaged.

5. The president of an organization who is concerned about the possible effect of a pending bill on his business travels to Washington and speaks about the bill on behalf of the organization to his two senators and the congressman representing the district in which his business is located. He talks a total of 15 times to his representatives or their staff assistants. Since the businessman only speaks to his own senators and congressmen he is *not* a lobbyist.

6. Three separate individuals employed by an organization call congressional staff aides a total of 40 times during a quarterly filing period in an attempt to secure passage of amendments to 3 different bills. On a fourth issue the company instructs 15 plant managers to write their own congressmen on the issue, but it makes no other effort to influence Congress. While none of the individuals would be a lobbyist, the organization is a lobbyist since together its three employees orally engaged in over 12 lobbying communications. The 15 letters sent by the plant managers do not count in determining whether the company is a lobbyist, but since the com-

pany is a lobbyist for other reasons, it would also have to report its interest in this fourth issue.

7. A company with a special problem urges various executive branch officials on 10 different occasions to support legislation to resolve the problem. The company also talks on 10 different occasions during the same three-month period with members of the appropriate congressional committees or their staff. Since the communications with the executive branch were on legislation pending in Congress, they are lobbying communications for purposes of determining whether the company is a lobbyist. Since the total of all oral lobbying communications exceed in this case 12, the company is a lobbyist even if it did not communicate with Congress on any other matter during the three-month period.

8. A national trade association seeking to gain passage of a bill before Congress sends a letter out to 5,000 of the leading businessmen in the country urging them to write, or to talk personally, with their congressmen in support of the proposal. The cost of writing, printing, and mailing the letters was \$2,000. Since this solicitation reached more than 500 persons and cost over \$200 to prepare and send, the organization is a lobbyist.

9. A local historic preservation society worried about the possible destruction of an old federal courthouse spends \$100 to prepare and distribute a flyer on the street to about 700 people urging them to write the chairman of the appropriate committee urging action to save the courthouse. Since the flyer cost less than \$200 to prepare and distribute, the local historic preservation society is *not* a lobbyist.

10. A national trade association directly communicates with Congress only when it wants to know the status of certain bills, but on four occasions it writes letters to the 50 companies that are members of the trade association and urges them on each occasion to write their own congressmen in opposition to a particular bill pending before Congress. This solicitation by a trade association of more than 12 affiliates means it is a lobbyist.

11. The Washington office of a company with 10,000 employees located in 5 states writes its 500 top management officials and requests them to travel to Washington to talk to their congressmen and senators about a bill directly affecting the company. Because the company solicited more than 50 of its own employees, it is a lobbyist. The individual employees who travel to Washington to see their congressmen are *not* lobbyists.

12. A professional association concerned about the possibility that an executive branch agency may propose a certain regulation of great importance to its members urges the 5,000 individuals who are members of the organization to write the agency in opposition to the idea. Since the organization urged more than 500 persons to communicate with an executive branch agency about a matter before it, the organization is a lobbyist.